

10A 2981

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SHIGERU HATAKENAKA

Serial No: 09/618,306

Filed: July 18, 2000

For: VINEGAR USING SEA WATER AND  
SEASONING THEREOF

Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: Curtis E. Sherrer

SELECTION OF INVENTIONAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction of Invention Requirement dated March 11, 2002, Applicant selects the invention of Group I, namely claims 1 and 3 which are drawn to a vinegar produced by adding sea water. Applicant makes this selection of invention with the expressed intent of not abandoning his invention contained in the other claims and expressly reserves the right to take whatever other action is necessary to preserve his invention contained in the other claims.

TRAVERSE

By the within Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 2 and canceled the non-selected claims 7 and 8. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim 2 together with claims 4-6 which depend therefrom now are all part of this single invention of Group I and should be combined therewith.

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Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Election of Invention or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA AND ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In conjunction with Applicant's response to the Restriction of Invention Requirement dated March 11, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests that a Preliminary Amendment be entered as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) A vinegar using sea water according to claim 1 further comprising adding clean natural water together with sea water.

Please cancel non-elected claims 7 and 8 of Group III without prejudice.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 2 to be dependent upon claim 1 and canceled the non-elected claims of Group III, namely claims 7 and 8 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presently amended are all directed to the single invention of Group I.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show